

MEDIA RELEASE

1 August 2024

Politicians, Nursing Leaders, Keynotes, Workshops, Abstracts ... and a Dame ACN National Nursing Forum (NNF) 2024, Cairns, 14-16 August 2024

One of Australia's biggest annual gatherings of nursing leaders, the Australian College of Nursing (ACN) National Nursing Forum (NNF), will take place in Cairns from 14-16 August.

The NNF 2024 theme is ***Regenerate, Reinvigorate, Reclaim: Sustainable solutions for our future.***

Around 700 nurses from around the country will hear from politicians, influential international and national nursing pioneers and innovators, and healthcare experts who will share their ideas, experiences, and recommendations for quality patient care, nursing pathways, and health system reform.

A highlight of NNF 2024 will be the keynote address – ***Nurses as agents of change and sustainability for the future*** – by internationally acclaimed nursing advocate, Professor Dame Anne Marie Rafferty DBE FACN (Hon), Professor of Nursing Policy at King's College London, and Past President of the Royal College of Nursing.

Government representation will be led by Ministerial video addresses from Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler MP, and Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care and Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health, the Hon Ged Kearney MP; an address by Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care, Senator the Hon Anne Ruston; and an opening address by Brittany Lauga MP, Queensland Assistant Minister for Health and Regional Health Infrastructure.

Other headline speakers include:

- Commonwealth Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Professor Alison McMillan PSM FACN;
- Independent Reviewer for the Working Better for Medicare Review, Professor Sabina Knight AM FACN;
- Deputy National Rural Health Commissioner, Adjunct Professor Shelley Nowlan FACN;
- Senior Nursing Advisor to the Commonwealth Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Frances Rice MACN;
- Head of the Susan Wakil School of Nursing and Midwifery and Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Health, University of Sydney, Professor Brendan McCormack MACN;
- CEO of Purple House, Sarah Brown AM;
- Chief Nurse and Clinical Services Director, Ramsay Australia, Dr Bernadette Eather FACN;
- OneBridge Founder and Chair of ACN Street Health Faculty, Adjunct Professor Sonia Martin MACN;

- Chair of ACN Children and Young People Faculty, Rheannwynn Sneesby MACN; and
- Director of Fleet Health RAN and Chair of ACN Military Health Faculty, Nathan Saunders FACN.

An exciting new addition to the NNF program this year is the ***Rise and Shine Breakfast***. This interactive session will capture the thoughts and ideas of grassroots ACN members to help shape ACN's new membership strategy and the future structure of ACN's Faculties and Regions.

The depth and breadth and diversity of nursing knowledge and expertise will be on show over the three days of NNF with concurrent sessions covering topics including:

- Palliative care;
- Registered Nurse prescribing;
- Indigenous health and workforce;
- Aged care;
- Mental health;
- Professional standards;
- Clinical trials;
- Rare diseases;
- Scope of practice;
- Voluntary Assisted Dying;
- Gerontological nursing;
- The social determinants of health;
- Racially and ethnically minoritised women nurses;
- Digital health;
- Environmental health;
- Climate health;
- Health care in disasters;
- Nursing workforce;
- Telehealth;
- Robotics;
- Nurse safety and patient experience in Emergency Departments; and
- Reproductive health.

The NNF 2024 program is at <https://www.acn.edu.au/events/national-nursing-forum#program>

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